United Nations A/64/126

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 July 2009
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Sixty-fourth session
Item 95 (g) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

Report of the Secretary General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Replies received from Member States	2
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
	Chile	3
	Colombia	4
	Greece	5
	Lebanon	5
	Mexico	6
	Oman	8
	Pakistan	13
	Spain	15

* A/64/50.

09-39261 (E) 290709 310709

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/44 of 2 December 2008 on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, the General Assembly, convinced that conventional arms control needed to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts, since most threats to peace and security in the post cold-war era arose mainly among States located in the same region or subregion, decided to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels and requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 12 March 2009, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States requesting their views on the subject. As of the writing of the present report, replies have been received from the following States: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Greece, Lebanon, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan and Spain. These replies are reproduced in section II below. Subsequent replies will be issued as addenda.

II. Replies received from Member States

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]
[5 June 2009]

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Open Skies Agreement, and as a State member of the OSCE it participates in the implementation of the Vienna Document 1999. Bosnia and Herzegovina is also a member State signatory to the Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control, article IV. In addition to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the following States have signed the agreement: Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro.

2. In 2008, the Armed Forces of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Inspection Teams participated in inspections in the area of confidence security building measures (4 active and 4 passive quotes), by which the arms holdings verification for 2008 has been ensured.

3. In accordance with article V of annex 1-B of the Dayton Peace Accord, there have been two verification missions, as mutual evaluation visits between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany. These visits were conducted within the context of provisions of the Vienna Document 1999 and inspection teams included guest inspectors from the South-East Europe region.

4. In 2008, there were regular and special meetings of the Sub-regional Commission for Consultations, and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina experts provided assistance to the Commission members on a required basis.

5. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence continued to provide support to RACVIAC (Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center — Center for Security Cooperation) during the past year through the participation of its representatives in the Multinational Advisory Group work as well

as through the permanent presence of our three representatives on the RACVIAC staff.

6. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces experts participated in programme activities in the capacity of guest experts and instructors for education of the course and seminar attendees organized by RACVIAC last year.

7. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence commitment is to continue the implementation of these agreements and to establish new ways of cooperation in the area of security directed towards transparency and confidence-building measures for both the parties to the agreement and other participating States.

8. Finally, we emphasize that the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence does not have any specific recommendations (positions) regarding paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 63/44.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[20 April 2009]

1. Chile believes that gradual and incremental strengthening of regional mechanisms at the regional and subregional level contributes synergetically to the achievement of international peace and security. The region of Latin America and the Caribbean — where nearly all countries have signed and ratified such international instruments as the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Conventions on the prohibition of biological and chemical weapons — has achieved major successes as regards confidence-building measures and transparency in respect of armaments. Particular attention should be drawn to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

2. Chile is President pro tempore of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) for the period 2008-2009; the establishment, on 16 December 2008, during its tenure, of the South American Defence Council (CDS) marks a milestone on the road towards cooperation in this area. The Council is not a supranational organ but rather UNASUR's consultation, cooperation and coordination organ in matters of defence.

3. The Council will act in a manner that is consistent with complete respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs. At the same time it confirms the full validity of democratic institutions and fosters peace and the peaceful solution of disputes and preserves and strengthens South America as a zone that is free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

4. The Council's specific goals are to: move ahead gradually with the analysis and discussion of subjects common to a shared vision of defence; encourage the exchange of information with a view to identifying risk and threat factors to regional and world peace; contribute to the formulation of joint positions on such matters; strengthen the adoption of confidence-building measures; encourage cooperation in the defence industry; share experiences and support humanitarian actions such as de-mining and assistance to victims of natural disasters, and in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

5. The first meeting of Ministers of Defence of the South American Defence Council was held on 10 March 2009; it resulted in the adoption of a plan of action 2009-2010, which focuses on the following four central themes:

- Defence policies
- Military cooperation, humanitarian actions and peacekeeping operations
- Defence industry and technology
- Education and training

6. The above-mentioned plan of action and the Declaration adopted at the first meeting of Ministers of Defence of the UNASUR South American Defence Council can be found on the website of the United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament).

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[30 April 2009]

Colombia believes it is particularly important to have binding instruments regulating conventional arms control so as to permit greater transparency and build confidence. The general principles that should be taken into account when drafting regional and subregional agreements on conventional arms control are as follows:

General principles

- Regional and subregional agreements should be consistent with the principles and purposes of the United Nations, as noted in Article 52 of the Charter
- Recognition that arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation are essential to peace and international security
- Respect for international law, including human rights law and international humanitarian law
- Respect for the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the inherent right to self-defence, sovereignty and equality of all States and non-interference in internal affairs
- Right of all States to produce, export, import, transfer and possess conventional arms for their own self-defence
- Right and obligation of States to safeguard their population and maintain control over their territory in view of the various forms of armed violence resulting from the actions of illegal armed groups, organized crime and common criminals, which affect each State internally and its ability to respond
- Recognition of the fact that transferring arms to non-State actors has a negative impact on the internal security of all States, for such arms can be used to commit crimes against humanity or serious violations of international humanitarian law
- Establishment of mechanisms that make it easier to control international transfers of arms and to prevent the latter from being diverted to the illicit

market, in particular to illegal armed groups or non-State actors on the fringes of the law, organized crime and common criminals

- Prohibition of the transfer of conventional arms to non-State actors
- Recognition of the importance of dialogue and cooperation among States on issues of security and defence, with a view, inter alia, to improving conventional arms control systems, enhancing transparency of transactions and building confidence
- Adoption of general measures to improve systems for monitoring and controlling conventional arms, taking into account the different situations and capacities of each State
- Establishment of measures and procedures to control and monitor all aspects of conventional arms trade, including identification and monitoring of end users
- Establishment of measures and clear procedures for the proper handling, collection, storage and final disposition of conventional weapons.

Greece

[Original: English]
[22 May 2009]

Greece, as party to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, recognizes the relevance and value the above-mentioned Treaty, which is a cornerstone of European security.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[23 June 2009]

The Ministry of National Defence emphasizes the following main principles that could serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control:

- Full compliance with United Nations resolutions and respect for the Charter of the United Nations in regard to this matter;
- Priority focus on the resolution of international disputes, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict;
- The equality of States in terms of sovereignty and territorial integrity, prevention of an arms race, and confidence-building;
- A commitment to implementation by all concerned regional States, in order to avoid any repetition of the state of affairs relating to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and the need for accountability in the event of non-compliance;

- Control of the manufacture and transfer of arms and suppression of the smuggling of and illicit trafficking in arms, in order to ensure that they do not fall into the hands of terrorists;
- The enactment of legislation at the regional and international levels to limit the proliferation of such weapons, while allowing for the possibility of their individual or collective use to resist occupation or defend territory;
- The strengthening of multilateralism as a means of furthering negotiation on arms regulation and disarmament.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[29 April 2009]

1. Mexico considers that conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels is a fundamental factor in confidence-building and the prevention of conflicts between States.

2. In the context of conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, Mexico has always acted in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States by promoting the implementation of confidence-building measures and compliance with obligations intended to implement them as means of promoting transparency and the exchange of information in the region.

3. As regards the implementation of arms control measures, Mexico would like to make the following suggestions:

(a) The Conference on Disarmament should consider developing principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control; Mexico will not only be actively involved in the negotiations but will also closely follow up issues raised during the negotiations;

(b) Regional and subregional agreements for the harmonization of the marking systems of the various arms and ammunition manufacturing companies should be promoted;

(c) States should take the necessary steps to expedite procedures for dealing with requests for cooperation in the tracing of firearms, ammunition and explosives, and;

(d) A body responsible for ensuring effective conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels should be established under the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Action at the national level

4. With regard to measures for transparency in the acquisition, development and deployment of conventional and strategic weapons, Mexico provides information annually to the United Nations for inclusion in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and to the Organization of American States under the standardized international reporting system on military expenditure. Such reporting helps to strengthen confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms.

5. Mexico has an Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS), which is a register of 66,000 ballistic fingerprints both of seized weapons and of spent casings and fired bullets recovered at crime scenes.

6. The Ministry of Defence, in coordination with state and municipal governments, periodically carries out arms in exchange for payment campaigns aimed at reducing the number of weapons in the hands of civilians and ultimately facilitating the implementation of arms control measures in the interior of the country.

7. The Ministry of Defence is also responsible for the strict control, custody and marking — for the purposes of identification — at the national level of weapons decommissioned by the Government of Mexico; such weapons are then disposed of or destroyed provided they are not the subject of any criminal investigations. Additionally, the Ministry of Defence has implemented rigorous procedures for the management of police-issue weapons whereby justifications for specific equipment are subjected to analysis, verification and validation prior to approval.

Action at the regional and subregional levels

8. Mexico has signed a number of agreements with the United States Department of Defense to establish military personnel exchange programmes as a means of strengthening the ties of friendship and understanding between the armed forces of Mexico and those of the United States of America.

9. Mexico continues to carry out the necessary consultations to explore the prospects for acceding to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

10. Mexico was actively involved, as a member, in the work of the so-called core group of countries of the Oslo Process charged with negotiating a legally-binding instrument on cluster munitions.

11. In that connection, on 16 and 17 April 2008, Mexico hosted a Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean with the objective of disseminating among the participants information about the substance of the Oslo Process consultations, promoting the signature of the Wellington Declaration and encouraging the countries of the region to participate in the Diplomatic Conference to be held in Dublin from 19 to 30 May 2008, where the future treaty on cluster munitions will be negotiated.

12. As a result of the Regional Conference, Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) signed the Wellington Declaration, thus ensuring greater regional representation at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference.

13. During the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions, Mexico, together with 106 other States, including 19 countries from the region, adopted the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

14. Subsequently, Mexico participated in the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean on Cluster Munitions held in Quito, Ecuador, from 6 to 7 November 2008; its goal was to urge countries of the region to participate in the signing ceremony of the Convention, which was held from 2 to 4 December 2008 in Oslo.

15. In recognition of Mexico's efforts in the context of the Oslo Process, the Government of Norway honoured our country as one of the first to sign the Convention, together with Austria, the Holy See, Ireland, Laos, Lebanon, Norway, New Zealand, Peru and Zambia.

16. The Mexican Senate unanimously approved the Convention on 11 March 2009 and its implementing decree was published in the *Diario Oficial* of the Federation on 16 April 2009. Mexico will be in a position to deposit its instrument of ratification as soon as the relevant formalities are completed (tentatively 30 April).

Oman

[Original: Arabic]
[20 May 2009]

I. Introduction

Pursuant to the two above-mentioned resolutions and the request of the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman should provide it with a statement of principles that could serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, with a view to a report being submitted to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, and in order to facilitate the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General, we affirm that Oman is committed to implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and has enacted legislation regulating trade in arms and ammunition that covers automatic, conventional and traditional weapons. The measures applied by the national authorities ensure control of illicit trafficking in all types of conventional and non-conventional weapons.

II. National focal point

In accordance with the requirements of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms, Oman has established a national focal point in the Royal Oman Police, which is the agency responsible for arms regulation, and for the suppression of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons conventional or traditional weapons, and implementation of the Programme.

III. National legislation

The main arm regulating legislation in Oman includes the Weapons and Ammunition Law (No. 36/90) and its amendments, and the relevant implementing regulations (No. 22/98). That legislation addresses the handling of all types of weapons. Its essential elements are as follows:

- Possession of firearms without a licence from the Inspector-General of Police and Customs is prohibited. Such licences are issued under the strictest of conditions to specific individuals for personal and security reasons.

- Licences may not be issued to any person who has been convicted of a crime or misdemeanour in which a weapon was used, has been proven to suffer from mental or psychological illness, or has failed to demonstrate proficiency in the security precautions to be followed when handling any type of weapon.

- Licences may not be granted to anyone convicted of a terrorist crime or imprisoned for a crime involving explosives, drug trafficking or arms trafficking.

- Licences to carry weapons are issued by the Inspector-General of Police and Customs on a personal basis. The Law prohibits the transfer of licensed firearms to a third party without prior authorization from the Inspector-General of Police and Customs or his authorized representative, in accordance with established procedures.

- The import of automatic and conventional arms or ammunition without a licence from the Inspector-General of Police and Customs is prohibited. Such a licence specifies the type of weapon or ammunition licensed for import. The Inspector-General of Police and Customs may refuse to issue or shorten the duration of a licence, specify the type of arms or ammunition to be imported under it, and impose any other conditions he feels are necessary for the maintenance of public security. He may also suspend or revoke a licence for reasons dictated by security or the public interest.

- The Law specifies the types of arm that may be licensed, namely, smooth-bore firearms (non-rifled); rifled (grooved bore) firearms (rifles and pistols) and automatic firearms (rifles and pistols).

- The Law does not allow the licensing of silencers, noise-reducing devices, telescopic sights which are affixed to firearms, machine guns, automatic rapid-fire rifles or rapid-fire pistols.

- The Law requires anyone who possesses a licence to trade in conventional weapons to maintain two registers, one of which is an inventory, while the other records sales to licensed purchasers. The registers must be submitted to the security agencies that monitor such activities.

- Strict regulations and conditions apply to the issuance of licences for the import of conventional weapons and ammunition, which is closely monitored by the Royal Oman Police.

- The Inspector-General of Police and Customs determines where licences for trade in conventional weapons and ammunition issued in any part of the country.

- The Royal Oman Police monitors all transactions involving all types of conventional small arms and light weapons and ammunition in order to ascertain compliance with the relevant legislation.

- The Royal Oman Police scrutinizes all conventional small arms and light weapons and ammunition transactions in order to ascertain that they fulfil legal conditions and regulations.

IV. Monitoring of production

There are no factories in Oman engaged in the manufacture of any type of automatic or conventional weapons or ammunition for such weapons.

V. Proofing

The proofing of conventional or small arms and light weapons is an integral part of the manufacturing process. The proof mark provides the following information:

- Place of manufacture
- Name or code of manufacturer
- Batch number
- Serial number of the weapon or its components

Proof information is recorded in special registers to facilitate the monitoring of all weapons.

When a weapon is licensed, the Royal Oman Police records the proof information of the weapon before the owner takes possession. The proof information can be used to trace the weapon should it be used in the commission of a crime.

VI. Export procedures

There are no factories in Oman engaged in the manufacture of any type of automatic or conventional weapons or ammunition for such weapons. Consequently, Oman exports no weapons or ammunition.

VII. Import procedures

No weapons of any kind may be imported without the approval of the competent security agencies. Weapons are imported through legitimate companies that are licensed to import weapons.

All entry/exit points are monitored with a view to halting the smuggling of all types of weapons and ammunition and the illicit trade therein. In addition, the most modern equipment and latest methods are used in the detection of and search for weapons.

VIII. Transfer and retransfer

Conventional or other weapons may not be transferred from one location to another without the approval of the Royal Oman Police at both the origin and destination points. Strict security procedures are followed during loading, transfer, unloading and storage.

IX. End user certificate

With regard to weapons licensed by the Royal Oman Police, end user certificates are issued by its supervisory division. Comprehensive measures are taken to record the data for all weapons in special registers.

X. Control of weapons depots

Weapons are stored in special depots that meet all conditions required for the safe storage of weapons.

The authorities employ guards who have been thoroughly trained in the protection of weapons depots and emergency response.

The contents of each depot is registered and documented with respect to quantity, type, serial number and the distinguishing marks of each weapon; special surveillance equipment is used to protect depots.

Periodic and unannounced inspections are performed by specialized committees in order to ensure that proper safety and storage procedures are being followed.

Annual inventories are performed in order to verify the stock and transfer activity of weapons and ammunition depots.

Seized, confiscated or surplus weapons are melted down.

XI. Training, capacity-building and research

State agencies engaged in combating the illicit trade in conventional small arms and light weapons and ammunition strive to develop the technical and specialist skills of their employees in all aspects of crime prevention, including crimes related to the illicit trade in arms of all types. They do so by:

- Organizing training courses on fighting crime, including the illicit trade in weapons. Those courses are aimed at developing trainee capacities in procedural and legal matters and training them in the latest scientific and technological investigation methods;
- Organizing specialized training courses on the storage and control of weapons and the management of weapons depots;
- Dispatching crime-fighting specialists abroad, particularly those working in the area of the illicit trade in weapons, for training in the latest methods of fighting crime;
- Organizing seminars on crime fighting, including the illicit trade in drugs and weapons, in which all relevant agencies participate;
- Conducting research and studies on combating all forms of crime, including the illicit trade in weapons. All relevant agencies participate in conducting such research and studies, the results of which are used to develop crime-fighting methods;

– Delivering special training programmes to Royal Oman Police officers on combating the illicit trade in weapons.

XII. Small weapons and organized crime

Since the convening of the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which took place in Cairo in 1995, Oman has emphasized that, although there is a direct link between organized crime and terrorism, no link had been proven to exist between weapons smuggling and the drug trade, albeit some drug dealers make use of illicit weapons in their criminal activities. Oman is not considered to be a drug-producing country.

XIII. Cooperation with civil society and non-governmental agencies

The security agencies strive to include civil society in efforts to fight crime, including the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, at the national, regional and international level. They do so by:

– Supporting the creation of crime-fighting groups, with a view to strengthening efforts aimed at involving citizens in fighting crime; raising awareness of how to guard against crime; conducting social studies, with a view to analysing the components and dimensions of crime; and publishing brochures to raise awareness of the dangers of crime;

– Supporting the efforts of such groups through the Royal Oman Police by participating in their work, encouraging public involvement in the crime prevention efforts of the police and providing those institutions with structural and organizational support.

XIV. Awareness-raising

The agencies concerned with combating the illicit trade in conventional small arms and light weapons and drugs distribute informational materials via the press, television and the Internet in order to raise public awareness of the dangers of the possession of and trade in drugs or conventional small arms and light weapons, or the unlicensed possession and trade in such weapons, and the deleterious effect thereof on human beings and society.

Persons engaged in combating the illicit trade in weapons are informed of regulations and laws that are relevant to their field of work through the inclusion of pertinent information in the educational curriculum and through training courses.

The security agencies also help to raise public awareness by analysing the security dimensions of social problems and employing the results of those studies to conduct awareness-raising campaigns using various media and by holding meetings in universities, colleges, schools, civil societies, places of worship and sporting and social clubs.

The Royal Oman Police has established special telephone numbers for reporting emergencies and crimes. Those numbers are 9999 and 1444, each of which is connected to multiple lines.

XV. Recommendations

We urge influential States to fulfil their international responsibility with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security by providing other States with the expertise, technology and funds they require for development of their proofing systems, as well as any other assistance that may be necessary in that regard.

XVI. Priority matters for Oman

Oman believes that emphasis should be placed on international cooperation to control the cross-border smuggling of illegal automatic or conventional weapons and the exchange of information in that regard.

It also emphasizes the importance of cooperation in respect of the provision of technical assistance to enable States to improve their proofing systems, thereby preventing the obliteration or alteration of the features of weapons or any data imprinted thereon.

Oman would welcome any international instrument aimed at curbing the illicit trade in all types of weapons and the proliferation thereof, without prejudice to the right of peoples living under occupation to take up arms in self-defence.

XVII. Confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms

The licensing of conventional weapons is addressed by article 5 and schedule 2 of the Weapons and Ammunition Law, and its implementing regulation, promulgated by Royal Decree No. 36/90 *mim* of 10 March 1990. Article 5 provides that, with respect to the weapons in schedule 2:

- The applicant shall be an Omani national;
- The applicant shall be not less than 25 years old;
- The applicant shall furnish a medical certificate endorsed by a Government doctor attesting that he is free of mental or psychological disease;
- The application shall be considered by the competent officials in the Royal Oman Police, who will decide the outcome of the application.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[1 April 2009]

1. The annual General Assembly resolution entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels" relates to an issue of utmost importance and urgent task facing the international community.

2. Peace and security and socio-economic development are indivisible. Continuing arms acquisitions impede the freeing up of vital resources for the socio-

economic development of the peoples of the world and the realization of the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations. It adversely affects social and economic development. Such a situation is not conducive for a genuine and lasting peace. The question of arms control is, therefore, of great significance to international and regional peace, security and stability.

3. Among genuine measures of arms control, together with negotiations on nuclear disarmament measures, the limitation and gradual reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons should be resolutely pursued. In parallel with measures for arms control at the global level, conventional arms control needs to be pursued in the regional and subregional contexts, since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion.

4. Regional arms control measures should be taken at the initiative and with the participation of States concerned and must take into account the specific characteristics of each region, the quantitative aspects of the forces which are the subject of arms control and disarmament measures and the asymmetries that might exist among various countries and the need to eliminate such asymmetries.

5. States with the largest military arsenals have a special responsibility in pursuing the process of conventional arms reductions and promoting agreements for the region's security.

6. The limitation and reduction of conventional arms and armed forces could relate to weapons and manpower and include their deployment as well as force postures.

7. Moreover, arms control measures should be guided by the following considerations:

- The adoption of such measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security, in accordance with the principle of "equal security for all";
- At no stage should individual States or groups of States obtain advantage over others;
- Security should be maintained at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces;
- Arms control measures should fully respect the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of peoples under colonial or foreign domination;

8. For arms control measures to succeed at the regional and subregional levels, it is important to address the causes of the arms race. In this context, it is important to point out that in most regions of the world, dangerous and destabilizing arms build-ups are the consequence of tensions and disputes, instead of the cause.

9. While arms control measures do help in the management of relationship between States, such measures alone cannot ensure lasting peace and security between States. They should be pursued in parallel with earnest efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which provides for a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation,

conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties concerned.

10. Addressing the underlying causes of conflicts such hegemony, domination, foreign occupation, economic disparity and racial discrimination will create an environment of trust and security which is essential for the success of arms control and disarmament measures.

11. While arms control measures at the regional and subregional levels have to be pursued freely by the States of the region concerned, the international community can also contribute significantly to the objective of durable regional peace and stability by promoting a comprehensive and non-discriminatory regional approach and avoiding policies that create military imbalances or exacerbate existing disparities between the countries of the region.

12. Pakistan seeks to maintain strategic stability in South Asia through arms control and restraint proposals based on the universally agreed principles of equal security for all. The objectives of these proposals are to avoid an arms race in the region and the attainment of conventional stability. Among other things, the proposals relate to non-acquisition or deployment of destabilizing weapons systems and the adoption of force postures and military doctrines with non-offensive orientation.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[20 May 2009]

1. The ultimate goal of any system of arms control or confidence-and-security-building measures should be to prevent conflicts by reducing the dangers of misunderstanding or miscalculation of military activities of other countries; taking steps to impede covert military preparations; reducing the risk of surprise attacks; and reducing the risk of the outbreak of war by accident.

2. The measures agreed upon may be legally or politically binding, but in any case should meet a series of requirements that can be summed up in the following principles:

- *Specificity*. Measures should be specifically negotiated for each case and each geographical area.
- *Transparency*. This should be based on exchanges of information and the establishment of regular contacts and free-flowing communication.
- *Verifiability*. The measures adopted should include a system for verifying their implementation. This is the only way to maintain confidence in cases of suspected non-compliance.
- *Reciprocity*. Each party's gains in terms of a higher level of confidence in the other parties should be matched by similar gains in the other parties' levels of confidence. Otherwise, measures of this type will be much harder to negotiate.
- *Voluntary nature of negotiations and mandatory nature of compliance*. The parties should feel comfortable with the measures agreed at each stage of the process. In addition, the political will required for the negotiation of measures

of this type should be commensurate with the mandatory nature of compliance with these measures.

– *Progressivity*. The measures should be seen as a process in which new and more effective measures are progressively developed as confidence between the parties improves.

– *Complementarity*. Care should be taken at all times to ensure complementarity between the measures adopted at the global (United Nations), regional, subregional and bilateral levels and to avoid the duplication of measures.

3. Moreover, an arms control regime, in order to be effective, requires:

– A consultative body to monitor the measures' implementation. All the parties should be represented in such a body, which should provide for the reporting of any problems encountered in the practical application of the measures, as well as for the negotiation of new measures or the modification of existing ones. This body should be able to exert enough political pressure to convince the parties of the need for full compliance with the commitments undertaken (the involvement of the most powerful countries in each region is therefore extremely important).

– A suitable system of communications that enables the parties to meet the response deadlines laid down in the various measures and that is flexible enough to ensure the flow of information needed to restore confidence in the event of any disturbances.

4. The establishment of confidence-building measures, especially among affected neighbouring States, the strengthening of border controls and the training of specialized staff, among other arrangements, could create a propitious environment for the elaboration of supranational (including subregional and regional) arms control agreements.

5. In addition, regional and subregional conventional arms control agreements should take into account the importance of:

– Establishing new confidence-building measures among neighbouring countries and strengthening those currently in place;

– Increasing transparency measures within the regional and subregional forums themselves;

– Disseminating the objectives of such forums to countries in the area that have not yet endorsed them;

– Compiling an arms inventory in the countries where such inventories do not yet exist;

– Strengthening measures to promote universal adherence to the various international instruments;

– Enforcing strict requirements for export and import permits;

– Strengthening mechanisms for monitoring weapons manufacturers and, in cases where the weapons purchased are not end products, suppliers and component assemblers.